

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 19, 2013

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 5, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 71

Introduced by Assembly Member Weber

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bradford, Brown, Hall, Holden, Jones-Sawyer, ~~and Mitchell~~ Mitchell, Achadjian, Alejo, Ammiano, Atkins, Bigelow, Bloom, Bocanegra, Bonilla, Bonta, Buchanan, Ian Calderon, Campos, Chau, Chávez, Chesbro, Conway, Cooley, Dahle, Daly, Dickinson, Eggman, Fong, Fox, Frazier, Beth Gaines, Garcia, Gatto, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Gorell, Gray, Grove, Hagman, Harkey, Roger Hernández, Jones, Levine, Linder, Logue, Lowenthal, Maienschein, Medina, Melendez, Morrell, Mullin, Muratsuchi, Nazarian, Nestande, Olsen, Pan, Patterson, Perea, John A. Pérez, Quirk, Quirk-Silva, Rendon, Salas, Skinner, Stone, Ting, Waldron, Wieckowski, Wilk, Williams, and Yamada)

(Coauthor: Senator Wright)

July 3, 2013

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 71—Relative to Africana studies.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 71, as amended, Weber. Africana studies programs.

This measure would formally endorse the invaluable work of California's Africana studies programs, and their faculty, staff, and students. The measure would recognize the leadership provided by the beneficiaries of those programs, and would support the continuation of

Africana studies programs in California's institutions of higher education.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The academic discipline of Africana studies
2 encompasses research, scholarship, and programs that analyze and
3 reflect the experiences and contributions of African natives and
4 African Americans; and

5 WHEREAS, Formal Africana studies programs and departments
6 at California's universities resulted from student-led movements
7 dating back to the 1960s. These movements included
8 demonstrations and student protests, where students, faculty, and
9 community members demanded university courses relevant to
10 them and their communities; and

11 WHEREAS, Since the 1960s, Africana and Black studies have
12 been the academic and intellectual extension of the Civil Rights
13 Movement; and

14 WHEREAS, The formalization of Africana studies increased
15 awareness of the need for faculty, students, and staff from diverse
16 communities in California's universities; and

17 WHEREAS, Dr. Nathan Hare, known as the father of Black
18 studies programs in the United States, was the department chair
19 of the nation's first African American studies academic program
20 in 1968 at San Francisco State University. Following a similar
21 pursuit, faculty members including, but not limited to, Carrol
22 Wayman, Vernon Oaks, Norman Chambers, Shirley W. Thomas,
23 Shirley N. Weber, and Harold K. Brown developed the first Black
24 studies program at San Diego State University in 1972; and

25 WHEREAS, In addition to offering the first African American
26 studies program in the United States, the California State University
27 has nine programs statewide as well as seven ethnic and gender
28 studies programs leading to undergraduate and graduate degrees;
29 and

30 WHEREAS, Over 400 students chose to major in African
31 American studies for fall of 2012 and another 200 in gender or
32 ethnic studies; and

33 WHEREAS, The University of California campuses at Berkeley,
34 Davis, Riverside, Irvine, Los Angeles, and Santa Barbara offer
35 undergraduate degrees in one of African American studies, Black
36 studies, or Afro-American studies; and

1 WHEREAS, Africana studies is comprised of several disciplines,
2 including art history, humanities, political science, behavioral
3 science, and history; and

4 WHEREAS, Africana studies, known in some departments as
5 Black, Pan-African, or Afro-American studies, encompass the
6 origin, history, culture, experiences, heritage, achievements, and
7 contributions of African natives and African Americans; and

8 WHEREAS, Africana studies, a respected academic field, has
9 fostered the development of professional organizations,
10 institutionalized departments, research journals, award-winning
11 publications, and other related programs across the United States;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Departments, programs, and related projects in the
14 field of Africana and Black studies promote constructive
15 communication and collaborative efforts among diverse groups,
16 and encourage respect, understanding, appreciation, equality, and
17 dignity among all groups; and

18 WHEREAS, The study of the roles, contributions, and
19 achievements of African natives and African Americans provides
20 a rich and in-depth perspective for understanding California and
21 United States history; and

22 WHEREAS, Africana and related studies incorporate the
23 influence of African natives and African Americans on the
24 California education system and on America's diverse racial and
25 ethnic groups; and

26 WHEREAS, Africana studies and related academic disciplines
27 promote a view of ethnic groups as significant contributors to the
28 history and diversity of California and the United States history;
29 and

30 WHEREAS, Africana studies has been the model and inspiration
31 for other ethnic, gender, and social education programs throughout
32 the United States; and

33 WHEREAS, The continuation and expansion of Africana studies
34 within our state's educational system would encourage students
35 to analyze and synthesize information with a global perspective;
36 and

37 WHEREAS, Support for postsecondary Africana studies
38 departments, programs, and related projects, including financial
39 support, will allow for the continued guidance and teaching of a
40 new generation of students who will enrich and contribute to

1 California policy, education, and government; now, therefore, be
2 it

3 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
4 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California
5 formally endorses the invaluable work of California's Africana
6 studies departments, programs, and related projects, and their
7 faculty, staff, and students; and be it further

8 *Resolved*, That the Legislature of the State of California also
9 recognizes that the leadership provided by the beneficiaries of
10 these programs has contributed greatly to the academic rigor,
11 prominence, and distinguishing qualities of California's colleges
12 and universities and the vitality of other public and private
13 institutions, including the California state government; and be it
14 further

15 *Resolved*, That the Legislature of the State of California supports
16 the continuation of Africana studies departments, programs, and
17 related projects in California's institutions of higher education;
18 and be it further

19 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
20 of this resolution to the Regents of the University of California,
21 the Trustees of the California State University, the Board of
22 Governors of the California Community Colleges, and the author
23 for appropriate distribution.